

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 19 to page 14, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A4
After the semiconductor wafer is subjected to primary polishing in the polishing unit 1a, the semiconductor wafer is removed from the top ring 13 of the polishing unit 1a, and rinsed at the position of the pusher 12, and then cleaned in the cleaning unit 7a. Therefore, any abrasive liquid containing abrasive grains adhering to the polished surface, the reverse side of the polished surface, and side edge of the semiconductor wafer due to the primary polishing in the polishing unit 1a is completely removed. Then, the semiconductor wafer is applied to a secondary polishing in the polishing unit 1b, and then cleaned by the primary cleaning process of the cleaning unit 7b and the secondary cleaning process of the cleaning unit 8b. Thereafter, the polished and cleaned semiconductor wafer is spin-dried and returned to the storage cassette 2a. In the serial processing, polishing conditions of the primary polishing and secondary polishing are different from each other.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 9 to line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A5
In the parallel processing, a semiconductor wafer is polished in a single polishing process. Two semiconductor wafers are simultaneously polished, and all of the four cleaning units 7a, 7b, 8a, 8b are operated to clean semiconductor wafers. One or both of the storage cassettes 2a, 2b may be used. In the illustrated embodiment, only the storage cassette 2a is used, and there are two routes in which semiconductor wafers used are processed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 17 to page 15, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A6
In one of the routes, as shown by solid lines, a semiconductor wafer is transferred from the storage cassette 2a to the reversing unit 5. The semiconductor wafer is then transferred from the reversing unit 5 to the polishing unit 1a after being reversed in the reversing unit 5. The semiconductor wafer is polished in the polishing unit 1a and transferred therefrom to the cleaning

unit 7a, where it is cleaned. The cleaned semiconductor wafer is then transferred from the cleaning unit 7a to the reversing unit 6. The semiconductor wafer is then transferred from the reversing unit 6 to the cleaning unit 8a after being reversed in the reversing unit 6. Thereafter, the semiconductor wafer is transferred from the cleaning unit 8a to the storage cassette 2a after being cleaned and dried in the cleaning unit 8a.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 2 to page 16, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the other of the routes, as shown by broken lines, another semiconductor wafer is transferred from the storage cassette 2a to the reversing unit 5. The semiconductor wafer is then transferred from the reversing unit 5 to the polishing unit 1b after being reversed in the reversing unit 5. The semiconductor wafer is polished in the polishing unit 1b and transferred therefrom to the cleaning unit 7b, where it is cleaned. The cleaned semiconductor wafer is then transferred from the cleaning unit 7b to the reversing unit 6. The semiconductor wafer is then transferred from the reversing unit 6 to the cleaning unit 8b after being reversed in the reversing unit 6. Thereafter, the semiconductor wafer is cleaned and dried in the cleaning unit 8b, and transferred to the storage cassette 2a. The transfer robots 4a, 4b use the respective dry fingers when handling dry semiconductor wafers, and the respective wet fingers when handling wet semiconductor wafers. The reversing unit 5 handles a dry semiconductor wafer, and the reversing unit 6 handles a wet semiconductor wafer in the same way as in the serial processing. In the above parallel processing, the primary cleaning process is performed by the cleaning units 7a, 7b, and the secondary cleaning process is performed by the cleaning units 8a, 8b may be used. In the parallel processing, polishing conditions in the polishing units 1a, 1b may be the same, cleaning conditions in the cleaning units 7a, 7b may be the same, and cleaning conditions in the cleaning units 8a, 8b may be the same.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 28 to page 18, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A8'

[illegible]